(c) if so, the number of doctors appointed on *ad-hoc* and daily wage basis since 1978; and

(d) the reasons for this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Upgradation of Government hospitals in Assam

1975. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to upgrade the Government hospitals functioning at present in the State of Assam during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b)Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to augment the facilities by providing assistance for equipment upto Rs. 1.00 crore for selected District hospitals of Assam.

Transfusion of untested blood

†1976. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the blood collecting units and doctors who are transfusing blood are not testing it prior to its use;

(b) if so, the action being taken against such units and doctors;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'Bahar se Kharida Rakt Sankramit Nikla, Mare'ez ko Jaan ke Lale', which appeared in The Rashtriya Sahara' dated the 6th June, 2002; and

(d) the number of such cases which came to the notice of Government from January, 2001 to till date and the action taken by Government in each case?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.